

Welcome to the Legislative Update for March 25, 2011

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. This information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. It is our intent to offer this e-newsletter weekly when the state legislature is in session. *The Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* Thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

Budget

Last week, the **Senate** passed a FY 2011-2012 budget that includes cuts of \$1.5 billion.

The **Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC)** *Senate Budget Proposal* report is provided at the link below.

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/senatebudgetproposaleng3-18-11.pdf>

The Senate budget bills include:

S1612: general appropriations 2011-2012

S1613: 2011-2012; capital outlay

S1614: 2011-2012; state budget procedures

S1615: consolidation; state agencies

S1616: revenue; 2011-2012; budget reconciliation

S1617: K-12 education; 2011-2012; budget reconciliation

S1618: higher education; 2011-2012; budget reconciliation

S1619: health; 2011-2012; budget reconciliation

S1620: welfare; 2011-2012; budget reconciliation

S1621: criminal justice; 2011-2012; budget reconciliation

S1622: general government; 2011-2012; budget reconciliation

S1623: regulation; 2011-2012; budget reconciliation

S1624: environment; 2011-2012; budget reconciliation

Links to information specific to those budget bills can be found at the **Arizona State Legislature** website:

<http://www.azleg.gov/Bills.asp?FirstBill=SB1601&LastBill=SB1650>

More budget news

On Tuesday, the **Governor** provided a guest editorial piece in *The Arizona Republic* reiterating her commitment to the budget she provided earlier this year which includes \$536 million less in cuts.

A link to the Governor's budget information page is provided here:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/BudgetInfo.asp>

Budget information from the **House** is pending.

STATE LEGISLATION:

Legislative action taking place on *some* of the bills the Council is tracking:

H2099: AHCCCS: Hospice Care; Restoration allows Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) to cover end-of-life care at inpatient hospice facilities for individuals who are on Medicaid. Latest action: 3/24 from Senate Health & Medical Liability Reform Committee with do pass recommendation.

H2157: DHS: Stroke Care Protocols directs the Department of Health Services (DHS) to adopt rules that establish emergency stroke care protocols. Latest action: 3/24 from Senate Health & Medical Liability Reform Committee with do pass recommendation.

H2233: Mobile Dental Facilities requires, as of January 1, 2012, every mobile dental facility and persons or entities that use portable dental units to obtain a permit from the state Board of Dental Examiners (Board). Latest action: 3/24 from Senate Health & Medical Liability Reform Committee with do pass recommendation.

S1082: DES; Fingerprinting; Finger Imaging modifies the requirements for the finger imaging programs for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Latest action: 3/2 from House Health & Human Services Committee with do pass recommendation.

S1499: Probate; Omnibus makes numerous changes to the statutes governing the protection of persons under disability and their property. Latest action: 3/24 from House Judiciary Committee with do pass recommendation.

Some of the HEARINGS scheduled next week:

H2099: AHCCCS: Hospice Care; Restoration: 3/28 1:00 pm, Senate Caucus Rm.

H2157: DHS: Stroke Care Protocols: 3/28 1:00 pm, Senate Caucus Rm.

H2233: Mobile Dental Facilities: 3/28 1:00 pm, Senate Caucus Rm.

S1082: DES; Fingerprinting; Finger Imaging: Calendar 3/28 - House Committee of the Whole.

For a complete list of legislative action and hearings on all the bills being tracked, see the information provided at the FULL LIST link below.

More than 895 floor actions were filed over the past two weeks at the state legislature. Last Friday, March 18th marked the last day by leadership order for House committees to consider Senate bills (by House rule last day is April 9). Today marked the last day by leadership for Senate committees to consider House bills (by Senate rule last day is April 9).

At the end of day 75, 1,350 bills posted and nine passed, eight signed; 142 memorials or resolutions posted, 16 passed. Of the bills posted, several may be of interest to Arizona seniors and are being tracked by the Council and appear on the *Legislative Update* web page. **Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's tracking lists does not represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill.** It does mean that the bill topic is something that is may be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

SHORT LIST – those bills having to do with health and safety of older adults

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24673&listid=44407&print=true>

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24635&listid=43827&print=true>

Note: The SHORT LIST and FULL LIST website links above provide you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and are available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. ***These lists will continue to be edited and updated as the legislative session continues.*** Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the *Arizona Capitol Times*.

Share your thoughts! If you have a particular perspective to share with the administration or the legislature, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-1318 or toll-free at 1-800-253-0883 or you may **contact the legislator from your area**. You can locate your legislator by going to the **Arizona State Legislature website**

<http://www.azleg.gov/> and looking for: *How do I find My Legislators* or by following the instructions provided at both the **Senate** and **House Member** links at the website.

If you're interested in committee membership and schedules, you can find that information at the Arizona State Legislature website. Standing committee links are found at: <http://www.azleg.gov/StandingCom.asp>. Committee agendas and hearing schedules are posted at: <http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp>.

If you're interested in learning more about the legislative process, see the *Bill Process* link <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/hbillaw.pdf> or *Bill to Law* link <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/BillToLaw.pdf> at the Arizona State Legislature website.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

S.465

Senior Financial Empowerment Act of 2011

Introduced on 3/2/2011 by Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand (NY), the bill's cosponsor is Senator Herb Kohl (WI).

Senior Financial Empowerment Act of 2011 –

Requires the Federal Trade Commission (FTC):

- (1) to disseminate to seniors and their families and caregivers information on mail, telemarketing, and Internet fraud targeting seniors, including on ways of referring complaints to appropriate law enforcement agencies;
- (2) in response to a request about a particular entity or individual, to provide publicly available information on any record of civil or criminal law enforcement action for such fraud; and
- (3) to maintain a website as a resource for such individuals on those kinds of fraud.

Directs the Attorney General (DOJ) to establish and administer a competitive grant program for mail, telemarketing, and Internet fraud prevention education programs for senior citizens.

Expresses the sense of Congress with respect to public awareness of the impact of such fraud on senior citizens.

On March 2, 2011, the bill was referred to Senate committee, read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

If you want more information specific to any bill, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number under *Search Bill Summary &*

Status. Did you know? You can access the latest legislative activities and visit congressional schedules and calendars under *Current Activity* on the Thomas homepage.

Contact Your Congressional Member. If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

Other National News:

Center for Medicare and Medicaid - CMS just announced a new website. *Innovations* can be accessed at: <http://innovations.cms.gov/>.

From the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Administration on Aging (AoA), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS)**

Enhancing Use of Clinical Preventive Services Among Older Adults: Closing the Gap - a report that highlights the use of potentially lifesaving preventive services by adults aged 65 years and older- is available at:

http://www.cdc.gov/Features/PreventiveServices/Clinical_Preventive_Services_Closing_the_Gap_Report.pdf.

2011 Alzheimer's Disease Facts & Figures was recently released.

http://www.alz.org/downloads/Facts_Figures_2011.pdf

2011 Public Health Week: "Safety is no Accident"

<http://www.nphw.org/nphw11/first1.htm>

May is Older Americans Month

Administration on Aging (AoA) offers information and resources at:

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Observances/2011/Older_Americans.aspx.

Also: Last issue, we provided a link to the GAO (U.S. Government Accountability Office) report on elder abuse. Here is a link to the **AoA National Center on Elder**

Abuse website that contains resources for family members, service providers and policymakers.

http://aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/Elder_Rights/NCEA/index.aspx

National Senior Fitness Day

In its 18th year, *National Senior Health & Fitness Day* is held the last Wednesday in May in local communities as part of *Older Americans Month* and *National Physical Fitness and Sports Month* activities. For more information:

<http://www.fitnessday.com/senior/index.htm>

The Congressional Research Service report on **Community Living Assistance Services and Supports - CLASS** is provided here:

http://healthreform.kff.org/~media/Files/KHS/docfinder/crs_1511CLASSAct.pdf.

Healthcare 411 features **tips on preventing falls** from the **Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality**.

<http://healthcare411.ahrq.gov/radiocastseq.aspx?id=1185&type=seq>

Family Caregiver Alliance fact sheet and resources on dementia and driving can be found at:

http://www.caregiver.org/caregiver/jsp/content_node.jsp?nodeid=432.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

The University of Arizona Department of Immunobiology and the Arizona Center on Aging have won a five-year, \$11.8 million contract from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease – part of the National Institutes of Health. To read more, go to: <http://uanews.org/node/38571>.

WHAT: A.T. Still University 7th Annual Lecture on Aging

WHEN: Friday, April 1, 2011, 12 to 1 pm, Arizona Campus, Saguaro A & B

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/SaveTheDateATSU7Annual.pdf>

WHAT: 2011 Arizona Living Well Institute Symposium – "Communicate, Market, & Connect"

WHEN: April 8, 2011, 8 to 4, Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix, AZ

For more information:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/AZLWI_2011SymposiumSVTD.pdf

WHAT: A Conference for Connectivity Connections & Partnerships: Moving Arizona Forward

WHEN: Tuesday, April 12, 2011, 8 to 5, Mesa Marriott Hotel, 200 North Centennial Way, Mesa, AZ 85021

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/ConferenceForConnectivity.pdf>

WHAT: Caring For A Loved One At Home Family Caregiver Classes

WHEN: May 3, 4, 5, 10 and 11, 2011, 1 to 3:15 pm, Prescott Valley Civic Center, 7501 E. Civic Circle, Room 331, Prescott Valley, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/FlyerMay2011PV.pdf>

Later this year...

WHAT: 2011 National Respite Conference and Grantee Meeting

WHEN: November 1-4, 2011, Renaissance Glendale Hotel & Spa, Glendale, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azrespice.org/respice/manyfaces/>

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov. Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

Note: Due to staffing, the *Legislative Update* is being issued approximately every two weeks. Thank you for your understanding. Have a good weekend!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging